

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 60

February 2013

No. 2



Calendar

Fri., Jan. 25	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO lobby	Tues., Feb. 12	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Jan. 26	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6 pm (reservations required: 301-946-5930)	Thurs., Feb. 21	Casual Music Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Feb. 2	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Farmer's Market	Fri., Feb. 22	Film Society, <i>Last Train Home</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 2); pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby
Mon., Feb. 4	Monthly yard waste collection; new art show, Penn Place (p 3)	Sat., Feb. 23	Farmer's Market
Thurs., Feb. 7	Casual Music Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Feb. 27	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBA)
Sun., Feb. 10	Reception, Penn Place, 10–3 pm (see p 3)	Thurs., Feb. 28	Deadline for applying for summer swimming pool job (see p 4)
Mon., Feb. 11	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm		

Roots and Rhizomes

What had brought this bevy of Garrett Parkers to a Town Council meeting? Your reporter, warming up in a front-row seat, watched as scads of townspeople settled in.

The word “bamboo” passed among the crowd.

“Before we get to citizen questions,” said the Mayor, “let us get through the agenda, please.” The crowd was restless, eager to get to whatever had brought them all together.

After approval of the minutes, Chris Petito began by thanking people for caring about a “parks issue.” Some POSCO recommendations have generated controversy. Porcupine Woods has underdone relative “benign neglect” over the years: downed trees and branches left to sit, etc. The original idea was “native plants in a natural setting,” but we haven’t done that. The committee looking into the Woods has recommended containment of the bamboo. “This is not about removing *all* of the bamboo,” said Chris. “The question is, can we retain a reasonable amount of bamboo *and* take steps to contain its spread?”

Suzanne Grefsheim, for the committee, proposed that we “remove some if not all of the bamboo.” If the town retains a patch, we’ll need regular thinning, and monitoring of barriers, and

this will cost money. “The bamboo is likely to take over Porcupine Woods if we do nothing.”

A discussion of how best to contain a smaller area of bamboo, with better health for the soil, ensued.

Some scoffed at the idea that bamboo can be “dangerous.”

Bob Flanders now addressed the Council. Bamboo, he said, provides a visual barrier, a privacy screen; it makes the woods seem more spacious. It’s beautiful, a habitat for birds, a “magical place. It has not spread; it’s smaller than it was last time this issue was discussed. The positive virtues of the bamboo must be seriously considered.”

Janet Wegner declared Porcupine Woods “Garrett Park’s Arctic Wildlife Refuge. The issue will never be resolved.” Keep in mind, she urged, that this place is a *woods*, not a park. “Woods are messy: downed branches, dead trees... We need to encourage our few remaining free range children. They like to play in the bamboo.”

Barbara Jackson, in speaking to the Council, argued that “we will not have trees in Porcupine Woods if this bamboo is allowed to advance.”

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The Council now began to discuss the issue. A motion was proposed in which we accept the principle of containing the bamboo to a point of confinement whose specifications would be brought back to the Council next month. This passed unanimously, as did a motion to pay up to \$6,000 for professional removal services for designated trees and downed trees, and up to \$5,000 for replanting.

Next on the agenda, Mike Kennedy, a representative from Green Savings Cooperative, asked the town to partner with his organization, which designates green service providers of all sorts and gives discounts to coop members who use these services. The Council voted against, with some members explaining that they were uncomfortable with the idea of the town being affiliated with a for-profit company, possibly used in marketing plans, etc.

Etc. being a very dull way to end a report, I will instead sign off with happy new year.

Margaret Soltan

February Film: *Last Train Home*

Around this time each year, when the Chinese celebrate their New Year, millions of people (~130 million) take journeys from urban industrial centers around China to their ancestral, rural homes. In his award-winning 2009 documentary film, *Last Train Home*, the Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Lixin Fan follows one couple who have made the annual trip from Guangzhou to Sichuan (more than 1,000 miles) almost 20 times.

Years before, Changhua and Sugun Zhang left their infant children behind when they moved from their rural village to get work in a factory. Their intention was to provide a better life and more opportunities for the children. The film explores the emotional cost of their choice now that the children are teenagers. *Last Train Home* (in Chinese; rated PG) received a 100 percent Tomatometer reading on the Rotten Tomatoes Web site. (That means a lot of film critics really liked it.)

The film will be shown at 8 pm in the Town Hall on February 22. Admission is free to GP Film Society members and \$5 per person at the door, \$10 per family.

We will order Chinese food for dinner. Cost to you is \$10 per person. If you plan to attend and have a favorite dish that you think others also would enjoy, let us (Anne Mizoguchi, Meme Lincoln, Leslie Pope, Henri Keller, or Suzanne Grefsheim, aka the “GPFS kitchen crew”) know. Otherwise we will choose one from column A and two from column B using our own preferences. Soda, beer, and wine are also on offer at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

We hope you will be at the Town Hall on February 22 to help celebrate the Year of the Snake.

From the PO

The PO staff hope that you enjoyed the holidays. They thank everyone for the wonderful good wishes and gifts from the residents. They send their thanks for your patience during the holiday rush that hit our PO window. There was not enough space to accommodate the packages inside the office, so they had to load up the hallway. A second wave of packages has arrived, so please bring in those yellow cards and pick up those delayed Christmas gifts.

Now for the bad news. By the time you get this, the price of a first class stamp will have gone up to 46¢ per ounce. However, if you have been buying and saving the forever stamps, they will assume the new value. Personally I’m saving mine for four or five years hence. Now if I can only remember where I put them in my house!

Mary Moyer

Holiday Decorating

Congratulations to everyone from the Garrett Park Women’s Club. Garrett Park was more festive than ever this year. All houses were winners, but some gained special recognition:

- Best House: 4605 Waverly (Liden)
- Best Yard: 11400 Rokeby (Collins/Chantry)
- Best Door/Window: 10806 Montrose (McDonald/Colomb)
- Best Porch: 11011 Kenilworth (Shuck)
- Kids Award: 4513 Clermont Place (Brocato/Yas-seri)
- Most Creative: 10708 Shelley Court (Hooton/Nguyen)
- Most Charming: 10909 Clermont (Pappano)
- Green Award: 10706 Kenilworth (Reinhardt/Anderson)
- Honorable Mention: 4710 Waverly (Morgan)

Congratulations to all! Thank you for brightening our town and adding to the joy of the season.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Leaf collection has finished for the year. Chances are you have a few leaves left over. You can either pile them up in a corner of your yard for composting (the Town Office has composting bins available for free—stop by and pick one up, if you like), or bag the leaves for the yard waste pickup the first Monday in February (Feb. 4). Please use the paper yard waste bags. If you missed the scheduled Christmas tree pickup, just put your tree out and we will take it away.

Snow has not yet fallen in any significant amount. This is very good for our budget, but unlikely to last. So please remember that it is especially important to try to park off the streets when snow is expected so that the town crew can clear the streets curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed. If you have a special need for your driveway to be open—medical supplies, caregiver services, etc.—please call the Town Office and let us know, so that we can see that your driveway is among the first to have the plowed snow pushed aside.

FY 2014 budget development has begun. If you have questions or would like more information, please call the office. If you have suggestions for next year’s budget, you should contact members of the Town Council or the Mayor.

Holiday Fund: I would like to thank the many residents who generously gave tips to the Montgomery County Sanitation employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste. A fine year-end gift was made to each of the five men, and letters of acknowledgement will be sent out at the end of January to all who gave.

Best wishes for the New Year from all of us who work for you as town employees—we enjoy working for you and do our best to provide you with as high a level of service as possible. Suggestions as to how we may do this better are always welcome!

Finally, in these winter months it is often hard for some of the town’s residents to get out. Please try to be particularly alert for a friend or neighbor who might need a little extra support this time of year. If there is any way you feel that we here at the office might be able to help out, please call or drop by.

Ted Pratt, Garrett-park@comcast.net, 301-933-7488



Art at Penn Place

The work of Arlene Howard will be on display at Penn Place from February 4 to March 2. Arlene has had three connections to Garrett Park over the years, and all of them have had to do with art! First, many years ago, she signed up for a class in pottery at Montgomery County Adult Ed classes; who was the teacher? Ann Gordon. Arlene says the classes were terrific, but she developed issues with her back and wrist and had to quit. Then a client mentioned she was taking classes in watercolor, and suggested Arlene come along to the classes with her. Who was the teacher? Martha Seigel. And more recently, when she was ready to mount a solo show, who showed up in her garden club? Vickie Baily, current chairman of the Penn Place Gallery.

Arlene liked to draw and paint as a kid, but she ran into a teacher in college who told her that on a scale of A to F, her drawing work was an L. (Doesn’t every artist run into this kind of thing at some point?) Fortunately she didn’t listen to her. After taking the pottery classes and the watercolor classes mentioned above, she decided she wanted to try oils. She took classes with Walt Bartman at the Yellow Barn, where she has since had work chosen for member shows and mounted a weekend show of her own.

Is it any wonder that she would like to move to Garrett Park? Come to her reception February 10 from 3 to 5 on the balcony at Penn Place.

Green Again

Our thanks go to Warren and Felice Kornberg for their annual donation to keep the banner green. They have often helped us to stay “in the green,” and we sincerely appreciate it.

We are in need of one more month (June) for the greening of this printing year. If you would care to sponsor a green banner to go along with the blooming flowers in town, please make a check out to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

Services for Seniors

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Veronica and Terry Sauvain announce the birth of a son to their daughter Catherine and her husband Mark Nagel. They live in Winter Springs, Florida, and grandma and pa can't wait to get down to see him.
- ♪ The Garrett Park Swimming Pool Association (GPSPA) is accepting applications for lifeguard and desk attendants (hourly) position for the 2013 season. Click on the GPSPA web site (www.garrettparkpool.com) and then download the "Lifeguard & Desk Attendant Employment Application." Everyone is required to complete an application for a job this year. Applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2013.
- ♪ Garrett Park author Paul Dickson was in the midst of introducing his newest book, *Words from the White House: Words and Phrases Coined or Popularized by America's Presidents*, when he got word of winning the Casey award for the best baseball book of 2012, bestowed for Paul's volume *Bill Veeck: Baseball's Greatest Maverick*. The Casey award is the third and most prestigious prize honoring Paul's biography of Bill Veeck.
- ♪ Kudos to Jeremy Lichtenstein for his KIND (Kids in Need Distributors) charity, through which a corporate grant and generous donations have helped to feed over 600 children in the MCPS system. KIND is in 13 schools every weekend during the school year serving meals to needy kids. The goal for 2013 is to serve 1,000 students in need of weekend meals.
- ♪ In the January/February issue of the *Bethesda* magazine, Damian Salvatore has a small profile of his days at BCC, along with several other graduates of the class of '83 who have gone into the food profession.
- ♪ In that same issue, Grosvenor Market is listed in the Readers' Pick as the Best in the Neighborhood Market category. Way to go, Scott!
- ♪ And also in that issue, there is a picture of David Stewart's squashed car from a fallen tulip poplar in 2011.

Obituary

Mary Ann Jackson

Mary Ann Jackson, 88, died Friday, December 21, 2012, in Olney, Maryland. Born February 18, 1924, Mary Ann graduated from Penn State with a degree in ceramic engineering and subsequently worked at the National Bureau of Standards. Following her marriage to Edward S. Jackson in 1953, Mary Ann moved to Berkeley, California, and pursued a master's degree in ceramic engineering at the University of California. Mary Ann and Ed settled in Garrett Park in 1957, and she found herself busy raising three daughters and volunteering in local organizations, which included leading a Girl Scout troop. In particular, Mary Ann was instrumental in saving the Garrett Park Coop Nursery School and in pushing for and facilitating the construction of a new pool for the Garrett Park Swimming Pool Association.

In 1967 Mary Ann started to work for the USPS in Garrett Park. In 1984 Mary Ann and Ed retired to Woodbine, Maryland, to pursue their interests in fiber arts. Mary Ann participated in many groups and organizations and, as a leader, was convinced that with enough effort anything is possible. Among the challenges she accepted was the chairmanship of the 1992 Handweavers Guild of America Convergence. She founded and led the Seminar Committee for the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Mary Ann was an expert spinner, dyer, weaver, and knitter, and a successful stock investor. She was a mentor, teacher, and friend to all.

Mary Ann is survived by her husband of 59 years, Edward S. Jackson, and daughters Evelyn

J. Burgy of Clarksville; Barbara E. Jackson of Garrett Park; and Carol S. Jackson of Hinton, West Virginia; sons-in-law Donald Burgy and William Rienstra; and nine grandchildren: Chris, Kate, and David Burgy; Lynne Rooks, Stephen, John, and Robert Rienstra; and Mary and Andy Maier. She also leaves four great-grandchildren and 11 nieces and nephews.

A gathering of friends and family to spin, knit, and share special memories is planned for 11 am, Saturday, February 16, at the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company Banquet Hall, 1330 Woodbine Road, Lisbon, Maryland 21765.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made in her memory to the American Parkinson Disease Association at www.apdaparkinson.org or 135 Parkinson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10305.



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Bamboo Peace?

January 14 hopefully ushered in an era of comity on the subject of bamboo. The Council approved the revised recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Committee's (POSCO) Subcommittee on Porcupine Woods to *contain*, not eradicate, the bamboo in Porcupine Woods and hire a professional service to remove bamboo and its roots in Porcupine Woods and to install a barrier to prevent its spread beyond the barrier.

Before the Council meeting, two of the three Montrose neighbors whose property would be most affected by removing bamboo in Porcupine Woods shared their preference for keeping bamboo on their own property and also their desire to retain a stand in the Woods. Several Garrett Parkers added their support to this idea. Others expressed grave concern about its invasive nature, including the third Montrose neighbor. Taking both concerns into account, the Subcommittee revised its recommendation regarding bamboo to containing it within a discrete area of the woods, not eradicating it.

During the course of its work, the subcommittee learned a lot about bamboo, some of which I would like to share. The species of bamboo in Porcupine Woods is called Yellow Groove. Take a close look at one of the canes and you will see and feel a distinct yellow groove between nodes. In the Mid-Atlantic region, Yellow Groove can grow 45 to 50 feet tall. The canes live for 7 to 10 years and need thinning regularly to maintain the health and beauty of the stand.

Yellow Groove is also one of the more aggressive bamboos when it comes to establishing a root system. And where its roots spread, nothing else will grow (with the exception of English ivy, another nonnative invasive plant). The area from the Montrose neighbors to the path and perhaps beyond is one giant mat of intermingled roots and rhizomes. If left unchecked, it will eventually take over more and more of Porcupine Woods and let nothing else survive. Hence containment is essential if we want the woods to support a diversity of plants and wildlife.

Finally, herbicides like RoundUp are not an effective way to control or kill bamboo. Within 5 to 10 seconds of being cut, bamboo sends out a sap that seals the cut area, blocking entry of the herbicide. Each node (a line that runs horizontally across the cane at intervals) also has a membrane that will close off the area between nodes into individual compartments. Sprayed or injected herbicide will just sit in the top compartment and not get anywhere near the roots. Digging bamboo up with a backhoe or other heavy equipment is potentially too destructive, creating erosion and soil runoff problems.

In its research the Subcommittee identified two possible ways to eliminate bamboo effectively. One is labor-intensive, involving repeated

cutting over a period of many years until the roots no longer have any food left to send up shoots. Once this stage is reached, it is several more years before the roots decay enough for the soil to be friable. Remember, the mass of roots underground is dense, compact, and virtually impenetrable. The second approach involves using special equipment (not chemicals) designed specifically to remove bamboo roots without removing large amounts of surrounding soil and at the same time protecting roots of existing trees. After the roots are removed, the soil is actually improved, aerated, and ready to support more desirable native plants. It is this second approach that the Subcommittee recommends for areas that will fall outside the barrier.

While the Council approved the recommendation to contain the bamboo, it directed the Subcommittee to work with neighbors and other interested Garrett Parkers to propose the boundaries of the stand and present its recommendation at the February Council meeting. If you have strong feelings about where the lines should be drawn, please let me know by February 1.

If you prefer, you should also feel free to contact other members of the Subcommittee: Cathy Rinzel, Chris Keller, Ken Schwartz, and Frank Obrimski.

Suzanne Grefsheim, Chair, Porcupine Woods Subcommittee

N.B. The Council also approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to clean up some of the major damage caused by last summer's derecho and authorized the town's maintenance crew to chip up some of the many downed limbs currently littering the woods. This work should begin shortly, weather permitting.

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www.garrettpark-md.gov

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Citizens Association Notes

Annual Town Dinner. The Annual GPCA Town Dinner will take place starting at 6 pm on Saturday, January 26. The theme this year is “The Things We do for Love.” It’s time to spread some stories of love: love of family, love of pets, love of food, love of travel, dare I say, love of trees... Please join us in the fun and share your favorite “love” story. (Call 301-946-5930 for reservations.) Finally, the 2013 Officers of the Citizens Association will be elected at the dinner. If you are interested in joining the board or helping out with the CA, please contact Mario at mfgrande@aol.com.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2013 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank

you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv, an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services. The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris (Todd@TCH1968.com) or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).

Lori Conlan

Letter from the Mayor

The democratic process worked at the last Town Council meeting, as the Parks and Open Space Committee’s Subcommittee on Porcupine Woods presented its report on the continuing maintenance and enhancement of the woods, while adjusting its recommendation on the disposition of the bamboo in the woods to reflect public comment before the meeting. Many citizens testified, often emotionally, about either their attachment to bamboo or the importance of removing invasive species from our woods. I believe that all views were heard and that people speaking appreciated the opportunity to share their positions. In the end, a compromise was reached to contain the bamboo, rather than eradicate it, and the Council approved that compromise, along with recommendations by the subcommittee on removal of some trees and downed tree trunks, the chipping of additional limbs and branches, and the planting of new trees and shrubs.

The subcommittee that developed the report not only worked extremely hard on the substance, but paid exceptional attention to the process. All of their meetings were announced publicly. They wrote several articles for the *Bugle* describing what they were doing and asking for input and participation. They visited the homes of persons whose properties abut Porcupine Woods to ask them to contribute to the process, and left them notes when no one was home. I wrote about the activity and the proposal in the *Bugle* and on both listservs, suggesting that people come to the Council Meeting to participate in the decision making, and sent a letter drafted by the subcommittee to the adjoining homeowners and residents explaining the proposal, attaching the subcom-

mittee report, and asking them to come to the Council Meeting.

It was disappointing, then, to have some people at the meeting attack the integrity of the subcommittee and the process. All of the people involved—the subcommittee, the committee, the councilmembers, the mayor—are volunteers doing what they truly believe is in the best interest of the town. The subcommittee members deserve respect and thanks from all of us for a job well done. It is important that we recognize the contributions of our many volunteers in town, without whom our town would not work, and that we support them in their efforts. It is okay for us to disagree on the substance of issues, but it is critical that we recognize the integrity and worth of the people with whom we disagree.

Peter Benjamin

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